

## **IOWA STATE SHERIFFS' & DEPUTIES' ASSOCIATION**

Testimony to the Legislative Interim Committee  
on Sexual and Other Criminal Offenses/Criminal Penalties

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The Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association (ISSDA) supports strengthened restrictions, supervision of, and appropriate penalties for sexual predators. As Iowa's partner in tracking sex offenders, ISSDA supports the following enhancements to 2005 initiatives passed in HF 619:

- Strengthen the law/penalties for sex offenders in "safe zones;" prohibit persons who commit a sex offense against a minor from being in safe zones (schools, daycares, parks, libraries); apply penalties. HF 619 only restricts residency, not presence, in safe zones. Exceptions would require notification/authorization.
- Notification: Require registered sex offenders who may be parents and need to be near or on school/daycare premises to notify the principal/director or principal/director's designee at the beginning of each school year, and depending on the offense, at least 24 hours in advance of a visit (similar to Louisiana S 164).
- Increase support for adequate electronic monitoring of sex offenders, especially those considered high risk by DOC and law enforcement.
- Implement changes identified by the Iowa County Attorneys Association.
- Further study the residency restriction for:
  - Impact on public safety; as cities and counties implement residency restrictions that go beyond the state law, monitor the impact of law enforcement's ability to track sex offenders who stop registering and/or move more frequently to avoid the law, become homeless or live in vehicles, etc.
  - Consider the role of risk assessments in determining who should be on the registry and/or affected by the residency restriction; identify good assessment tool and determine how and by whom assessments should be done.
  - Review expert data on the impact of loss of residence on offenders' risk to reoffend.
  - Consider the overall impact of local ordinances that preempt the state law; consider which decisions should be consistent statewide and what should be left to local control.
  - Consider a surcharge or sex offender registry fee paid by offenders to local governments/law enforcement to defray costs of implementing the residency restriction; ISSDA will be surveying a sample of counties to determine the additional cost of offender identification, notification of eviction, tracking, mapping, etc. due to the implementation of the 2000-foot residency requirement.
  - Consider the fiscal impact on jails/prisons.